class infrastructure; work towards streamlining their land policy to facilitate development of adequate hotel rooms; and would take up the issue of operation and maintenance of tourist infrastructure through Public-Private Partnership. In addition, Ministry of Railways has been requested to expedite the work on the proposal for establishing 100 budget hotels.

**Constitution of National Tourism Advisory Council**

4307. SHRI C. PERUMAL :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Tourism Advisory Council has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether the National Tourism Advisory Council has held its meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the issues discussed and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) is chaired by the Union Minister of State of Tourism (Independent Charge) and has Members from Ministries of Government of India, Experts in the field of travel and tourism management and President of Travel/Trade Associations with Secretary (Tourism), Government of India as Member-Secretary.

(c) to (e) The first meeting of the NTAC was held on 30th March 2005 where issues concerning building infrasturcture with focused and coordinated efforts to cope with the large flow of tourist traffic, shortage of hotel accommodation, reduction/rationalization of taxes, improving railway infrastructure, involvement of local people/business houses in conservation of monuments, immigration problems, setting up of Convention Centres, setting up of a Tourist Promotion Board, etc. were raised by the Members. Suggestions were also received for setting up of Sub-Groups involving representatives of State Governments, whenever required to discuss the issues in greater detail and make concrete recommendations.